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Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the Report of the

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1956

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

July 1957.

Council Offices,
South Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leics.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

For the year 1956.

June 1957

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor A. J. Campion J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor D. E. Davies

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor H. Fern

Vice-Chairman : Councillor A.J. Campion J.P.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor T.L. Yates

Vice-Chairman : Councillor C.J. Peach

WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor A.J. Forrester

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. Buckley

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

J. E. R. Wilkinson

ACCOUNTANT AND DEPUTY CLERK.

C. M. Taylor A.I.M.T.A.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. McM. W. Segerdal M.D.,D.P.H.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

C. S. Curtis M.A.P.H.I.,C.R.S.H.,DIP.P.H.H.(Hons)

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F. H. Wynne M.A.P.H.I.,C.R.S.H.,DIP.P.H.H.(Hons)

CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

D. N. Rosillc A.R.I.B.A.

WATER ENGINEER AND ENGINEERING ASSISTANT

C. Mugglestone A.R.I.C.S.,M.R.S.H.

Rural District Council Offices,
South Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

June, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Rural District Council of
Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the Year 1956.

According to the Registrar General's estimate, the population remains stationary at 13,850.

The birth rate (14.2) is slightly higher than last year (13.0) and lower than that for England and Wales (15.7).

The death rate (11.3) is lower than last year (11.6) and lower than that for England and Wales (11.7). The death rate of infants under one year is 15.2 compared with 38.9 in 1955, and England and Wales (23.8)

Of the 153 deaths during 1956 there were 10 deaths from accidents and suicide. The chief causes of death, as has been the case for some years past, were from diseases associated with elderly people.

The Cheshire Home for the sick has been enlarged and is still continuing to expand.

It will be noted that all the parishes, with the exception of Bardon have a piped water supply.

Sewage works and laying of sewers were completed in Heather and Worthington. Appleby Magna, Osgathorpe and Snarestone sewerage and sewage disposal schemes are in progress. There are 374 cesspools in the district and 54 septic tanks were constructed during the year. 81 closets were converted to the water carriage system.

209 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 758 houses completed in the post-war period, of which 588 were completed by the local authority. The total number of applicants for council houses at the end of the year was 292 and the number of applications received 92.

82 cases of infectious diseases were notified, 27 Measles, 22 Whooping Cough, 19 Pneumonia, 6 Food Poisoning, 4 Scarlet Fever, 2 Erysipelas, 1 Dysentary and 1 Acute Encephalitis. 4 cases were admitted to hospital and there were 6 deaths, all from Pneumonia.

The outbreak of food poisoning was due to Salmonella Stanley, and it is thought it might have been acquired during a 'bus trip. One case was severe and was admitted to hospital, the others were mild.

I am pleased to report that the number of children being immunised against Diptheria maintains the increase of last year.

Only 2 cases of Tuberculosis, both Pulmonary, were notified during the year and there was 1 death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Evidence of Brucella Abortus infection was again found in milk, but no formal action was necessary.

To the staff of the Public Health Department of the County Council and to Doctor Mair, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, I wish to extend my thanks for their willing help and co-operation.

Finally, I wish to thank Mr. C. S. Curtis, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, and to thank Mr. F. H. Wynne, Additional Public Health Inspector, for their invaluable help during the year and you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindness and co-operation.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. McM. W. Segerdal
M.D., D.P.H.

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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	28,267
Resident Population (R.G's estimate) ...	13,850
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,427
Rateable Value	£116,716
Sum represented by a penny rate	£ 478
Comparability Factor - Births	1.00
Deaths	1.11

The chief industries in the area are Agriculture; Coalmining; Opencast Coal Working; Brickmaking; Stoneware and Pipemaking and Stone Quarrying. There are also small Textile Works and Light Engineering Works.

No particular industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on health during the year.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	98	95	193
Illegitimate	1	3	4
	99	98	197

Live Birth Rate : 14.2 per 1,000 population
England and Wales Birth Rate : 15.7 " " "

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	5	4	9

Total Births	Male	Female	Total
Live and Still	104	102	206

Still Birth Rate : 47.0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births
England and Wales Still Birth Rate : 23.0 " " " "

Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	81	72	153

Death Rate : 11.3 per 1,000 population
England and Wales Death Rate : 11.7 " " "

Causes of Death during 1956.

Diseases	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	6	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	3	7	10
Leukaemina, aleukaemia	2	-	2
Diabetes	2	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	16	26
Coronary disease, angina	12	4	17
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	5	13	17
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	7	5	12
Other disease of respiratory system	-	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	12	21
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	5	1	6
Suicide	3	-	3
	81	72	153

Chief causes of death were :

Disease of Heart and Circulation	64
Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms (Cancer)	25
Disease of Respiratory System	20
Deaths from all accidents and Suicide	10

Maternal Mortality.

Total maternal mortality rate per 1,000 births

Live and still	:	0.0
England and Wales	:	0.56

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	2	1	3

Death rate of Infants under one year of age.

Per 1,000 live births	:	15.2
England and Wales per 1,000 live births	:	23.8

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	1	1	2

Death rate of Infants under four weeks of age.

Per 1,000 live births	:	10.2
England and Wales per 1,000 live births	:	16.9

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

All hospitals, except some private maternity and nursing homes, are under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

The County Homes for the aged and destitute are under the County Council. When the inmates take ill they become the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

Cheshire Home for the Sick.

The home is entirely voluntary and not under the Regional Hospital Board.

At the end of the year there were 21 patients, 12 women and 9 men, all chronic sick.

During the year, a third bathroom was added. Two womens wards have been completed and a womens sitting room has been opened.

Four wards are in process of being completed and a further bathroom is being constructed and central heating is being installed.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There are none actually in the district.

Infant welfare clinics are held every Thursday afternoon at the Baptist School, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and every 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoon at the Centenary Methodist Church, Donisthorpe Road, Moira. At the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, an Ante-Natal clinic is available. The tuberculosis clinic is held at Markfield Sanatorium under the auspices of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Facilities.

The County Council is responsible for all facilities in the County. Colliery accidents are removed by ambulances provided by the National Coal Board stationed at Nailstone Colliery and Moira Colliery.

Nursing in the Home.

All District Nursing and Midwifery in the home is under the Leicestershire County Council.

Health Visiting.

This work is provided by the Leicestershire County Council and the work of Health Visitor, School Nurse and Tuberculosis Visitor is combined in a single appointment.

The Diabetic Health Visitor attends the Diabetic Clinic at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and visits the patients in their homes.

Laboratory Facilities.

Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester.

The following examinations were made :

Faeces and Urine	...	...	54
Sputa	...	...	59
Waters	...	...	9
Ice Cream	...	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	7
			146

Generally there is co-operation between the Local Authority and the services provided by the Executive Council and the Hospital Board, and the tendency is towards closer integration.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

Mains supplies have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Particulars of water supplies to dwelling houses :

Internal Mains Water Supply		Mains water from external standpipes		Well Water Supply	
No. of dwelling houses	Population	No. of dwelling houses	Population	No. of dwelling houses	Population
3848	12,552	Not known	Not known	368 (Estimated)	1,188 (Estimated)

Number of parishes with piped supply of water :

From Public Mains : 16 From private reservoirs : Nil

Number of parishes without a piped supply of water :

One (Bardon)

Lount village has been provided with a piped supply of water.

In 43 cases a piped supply of water has been substituted for well water.

Water Supply from Wells.

Number of Samples taken for Analysis			
Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
Nil	2	Nil	4

Number of wells closed : 28

Number of wells cleansed etc : Nil

Post War Proposals.

At the close of the year boring was in progress for the provision of a standby pump at Acresford Waterworks.

Sewage Disposal.

Number of septic tanks constructed during the year : 54
Number of cesspools abolished during the year : Nil

Total number in district on December 31st, 1956 : 374

Number of parishes with efficient sewage disposal works ... ... 6 (three overloaded)

Sewage works and the laying of sewers were completed in Heather and Worthington during the year.

Post War Proposals.

Appleby Magna, Snarestone and Osgathorpe sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in progress.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number in district on 31st December 1956 :

Privies : 1[illegible] (Est) Pail Closets : 1543 W.Cs. 2991

Number of closets converted to water carriage system during the year :

Privies : Nil Pails : 81

A grant of £10. 0. 0., or one half the cost, which ever is the lesser is made towards the cost of conversion.

The contents of pails are emptied weekly and disposed of on to agricultural land and tips.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse is removed by direct labour, using two Karrier Bantam ¾ cubic yard, and two 10 cubic yard refuse collection vehicles.

Number of parishes covered by routine collections :

Sixteen.

House refuse is disposed of to three controlled tips and one crude tip.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Total number of complaints received	115
Total number of premises at which defects or nuisances were dealt with	110
Total number of defects or nuisances dealt with	248

Inspections made.

Animal keeping	1
Bakehouses	28
Dairies	10
Drainage Works	283
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	1199
Food premises	178
Refuse collection and disposal	170
Rodent control	Carried out by Council's Rodent Operator.
Shops	68
Slaughterhouses and Meat inspection	573
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc	17
Verminous and dirty premises	4
Water supplies	25
Workshops, Outworkers etc., ...	60
Other inspections	1032
	3648

Notices.

Preliminary.	Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on January 1st 1956	17	34
Issued during the year	-	115
Complied with during the year	17	111
Statutory action necessary	-	3
Outstanding 31st December 1956	-	38

Statutory.

	Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January, 1956	-	3
Issued during year	-	3
Complied with during year	-	5
Outstanding 31st December, 1956	-	1

Shops.

Particulars of action taken during the year under the Provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950.

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding at 31st Dec 1956
Sanitary Conveniences	4	4	-
Ventilation	1	1	-
Washing facilities	4	3	1

Camping Sites.

During the year 12 licences were issued in respect of moveable dwellings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Regulated Buildings.

Regulated Buildings	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Action Taken	General Conditions
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	12	17	Informal requests	
Canal Boats	Nil	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	Nil	-	-	-

Eradication of Bed Bugs : No action necessary.

Pet Animals Act, 1951	:	No premises in area.
Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.	:	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.	:	Routine parish by parish inspection, private dwellings treated free, business premises on a time plus material basis, carried out by one man employed half time.
Schools.	:	No action taken.
Swimming baths and Pools open to the Public.	:	None in the area.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

New Houses.

Houses completed during year	TYPE		Average cost per house	Average rent exclusive of rates
	Prefab Permanent	Permanent		
By Local Authority	-	166	-	18/1d.
Private Enterprise	-	43	-	-
Houses in course of erection at end of year				
By Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	18	-	-

Total number of post war houses completed by Local Authority	588
Total number of post war houses completed by private enterprise	170
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end of year	282
Number of applications received for Council Houses during the year	92
Total number of Council Houses in the district prior to the war (1939)	322

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	Not known
Number of families dwelling therein	-
Number of persons dwelling therein	-
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	-
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	35
Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	127

It is not known if any cases have again become overcrowded after steps had been taken for the abatement of overcrowding.

Housing Summary.

Total number of occupied houses in district ...	4,427
Total number of Council Houses occupied in district ...	910

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for manufacture and retail ...	3
Number of premises registered for manufacture only	Nil
Number of premises registered for retail only ...	40

Number of samples taken : 18

Results :	Grade 1	:	16
	Grade 2	:	1
	Grade 3	:	1
	Grade 4	:	Nil

Milk Supply.

Dairies (other than dairy farms) and Distributors (Section 8 Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949).

Number on Register -	Dairies	...	2
	Distributors	...	17
Number of Inspections -	Dairies	...	10
	Distributors	...	26

Biological Milk Samples.

Number of routine bulk samples taken	...	51
Results satisfactory	...	48
Evidence of living Tubercle Bacilli	...	-
Evidence of Brucella Abortus ...	...	3
Number of individual samples following a positive brucella abortus report on a routine sample	...	31

Bacteriological Milk Samples.

51 samples of designated "Tuberculin Tested" milk were taken and 50 proved to be satisfactory, one unsatisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued :

		Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers' Licences ...	...	7	-
Supplementary Licences	...	7	-

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued :

Dealers' Licences ...	...	8
Supplementary Licences	...	8

Meat and other Foods.

Number of licensed slaughter houses in area ...	6
Number of animals slaughtered therein	2238
Number of animals examined therein	2238
Number of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	10%
Number of Knacker yards in area	1
Number of visits to Knacker's yard	5

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	481	234	5	1129	389
Number inspected	481	234	5	1129	389
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	109	85	Nil	27	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.7	36.3	-	2.4	2.05
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	31	24	Nil	Nil	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.4	10.25	-	-	2.6

Meat Stalls.

Number of inspections	Nil

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.

Number of inspections	16

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.

Number of inspections	147

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Number of premises inspected	51
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	176
Number of informal notices served	39
Number of informal notices complied with ...	18
Number of informal notices outstanding at year end	14
Number of formal notices served	nil

Butchers' Shops.

All premises have been inspected and 75% brought up to standard.

Bakehouses.

All premises have been inspected and discussions in progress at year end.

Catering Establishments.

All premises have been inspected and advice given at year end.

Licensed Premises.

Commencement on the inspection of all licensed premises at the end of the year.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases (other than tuberculosis) during 1956.

Disease	Final No. after correction	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Whooping Cough	22	-	-
Measles	27	-	-
Pneumonia	19	1	6
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	6	1	-
Total	82	4	6

Analysis under Age Groups According to Registrar General's Return 118d.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
Under 1 year	-	1	2	-
1 to 2	-	4	11	1
3 to 4	-	6	4	-
5 to 9	3	9	8	-
10 to 14	1	2	2	-
15 to 24	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
Total	4	22	27	1

Age Group	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
Under 5 years	1	-	1	-
5 to 14	1	-	-	-
15 to 44	7	-	-	-
45 to 64	8	1	-	6
65 and over	2	1	-	-
Total	19	2	1	6

Table showing incidence of Notifiable Disease in each Parish during year 1956.

Parish	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis	Food poisoning
Appleby Magna	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-
Chilcote	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Coleorton	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-
Heather	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-	5	3	1	-	6
Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	-	1	2	5	4	-	-	-
Osgathorpe	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ravenstone	1	1	1	3	1	-	-	-
Snarestone	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Swannington	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-
Swepstone	-	-	18	1	1	-	-	-
Worthington	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-
Total	1	4	22	27	19	2	1	6

MEASLES.

The following table shows the incidence of Measles in each Parish monthly.

Year 1956	Appleby Magna	Chilcote	Coleorton	Heather	Measham	Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	Ravenstone	Swannington	Swepstone	Worthington	Total
January	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
February	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
June	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
July	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	4
August	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	4
November	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
December	-	2	4	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	10
Total	1	3	5	1	5	5	3	1	1	2	27

Food Poisoning.

Six cases of food poisoning occurred at Measham in May. It is possible that there were nine all together. All were believed to have been infected on a 'bus trip, some 33 people at risk. Owing to the lateness of the notification it was not possible to examine any of the suspected food.

With the exception of one case, who was in hospital two weeks, all the other cases were mild and the causal organism was Salmonella Stanley.

Samples taken from all the others who took part on the trip, and samples of those handling the food in another area (eight in all) were negative. The severe case eventually recovered completely.

In the six cases, the carrier state remained for a time and by the end of the year remaind only in two cases.

Dysentery.

The case was in hospital and developed the illness whilst visiting another area.

It is possible the infection was acquired whilst visiting there and was a moderately severe case.

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Register of Notifications of cases of Tuberculosis for the year 1956.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register at commencement of year	23	15	10	15	63
Number of cases notified for first time during the year	-	2	-	-	2
Number of cases restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register and brought to notice other than by formal notification	-	1	-	-	1
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	2	2	2	3	9
Number of cases remaining on the Register at end of year	21	16	8	12	57

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of children who were immunised during the period 1st January - 31st December 1956

Age at 31.12.56	Under 1 1956	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5 1951	6 1950	7 1949	8 1948	9 1947	10 1946	11 1945	12 1944	Total
Primary Immunisation	24	96	14	2	4	3	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	146
Booster Injection	-	-	-	1	8	92	10	-	2	1	-	1	-	115

Tuberculosis - Year 1956.

Causes of Removal from Register.

	MALES		FEMALES		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Cured	-	2	-	2	4
Died	2	-	1	-	3
Left District	-	-	1	-	1
Diagnosis not confirmed	-	-	-	1	1
Total	2	2	2	3	9

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

Resumé of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1956, which has already been sent to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

Part I of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	33	28	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	5	-
Total	38	33	

Cases in which defects were found.

Sanitary Conveniences.

	No. of cases in which defects were found.	
	Found	Remedied.
Unsuitable or defective	1	-

Part VIII of the Act.

Outworkers (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Number of Outworkers in August list required by Sections 111 (1)(c).
Wearing apparel, making etc.,	25

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Rural District Council Offices,
South Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

June, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Rural District Council of
Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present my third Annual Report, being a report on work carried out during the year 1956 by my department.

The year under review has seen progress made in connection with legislation passed during the previous two years. In particular much work has been carried out under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations made thereunder.

Work involved in the clearing and demolition of unfit houses continued and by the end of the year orders had been made in respect of 137 houses out of the Council's schedule of approximately 200 unfit houses to be dealt with in the five year programme.

Very good progress was made with new house building. Over 40 private houses were completed during the year - the greatest number in any one year since the war - and the Council's sites at Donisthorpe and Measham have been completed, apart from minor items.

The Council took a first step towards saving structually sound properties from demolition in that, as an experiment they purchased five sub-standard properties (which the owners were not prepared to renovate) and carried out renovations themselves. It is hoped that this will lead to other similar purchases and improvements.

It is regretted that owners of tenanted properties have still not taken advantage of the Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954. I feel sure they are still not appreciative of the fact that expenditure on improvements such as the provision of a bathroom, hot water system &c., can bring in a good financial return.

During the year the 500th post-war Council House was completed. This was a house on Wilkes Avenue, Measham and an official opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. J. Cronin, wife of Dr. John Cronin, F.R.C.S., Member of Parliament for the Loughborough Division.

The sewage works at Donisthorpe are now so overloaded that the sprinkler arms work continuously during the afternoons and there is, unfortunately, no doubt that the Council will shortly be faced with the expense of the extension of these works in addition to Measham and Ravenstone.

Unless Newbold Council Houses Works are connected to the Worthington sewer during the coming year, these works will have to be renovated.

Sewers in the district are now being affected seriously by mining subsidence, the sewer along the Ashby Road, Measham being particularly affected. At the present time every effort is being made to keep this (and other) sewers running with the expenditure of little money, but when the subsidence ceases, the cost of relaying is going to be high and it may be necessary to do certain work before the effect of subsidence has ceased.

COMPLAINTS.

Set out below are details of the various complaints which have been received together with a table showing repairs and improvements carried out.

Dwellings rendered fit or defects remedied	69
Complaints received	115
Premises inspected	115
Groundless complaints	5
Revisits to work in hand	411
Premises at which nuisances abated	111
Informal Notices served	115
Statutory Notices served	3

Damp proof courses inserted	7
Pantries provided	2
Water Closets repaired	2
Pan closets repaired	3
Drains relaid, repaired, trapped or ventilated, or cleared (does not include sewers) ...	33
Cesspools cleansed or repaired	141
Offensive accummulations removed	3
Roofs repaired	20
Chimneys repaired	8
Damp walls remedied	32
Doors repaired	11
Windows repaired or renewed	25
Fireplaces repaired, or new ones provided ...	12
Plastering repaired	33
Sinks provided	9
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	8
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	16
Floors repaired	15
Copper pans provided, or repaired	1
Dirty houses cleaned	1
Verminous houses cleansed	3
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Animal nuisances abated	1
Staircases repaired	4
Walls repaired	8
Flooded cellars cleared	2
Pumps repaired	2
Pantries repaired	3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

The man employed part-time on pest control has been away ill for the greater part of the year. When he has been at work, he has concentrated on rodent control rather than part-time on these duties and part-time at the sewage disposal works.

The Council's policy of free treatment at domestic premises with a charge on a time plus material basis at business and agricultural premises has been continued.

In all, a total of 999 visits have been made, and of these 163 premises have been treated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Routine investigations have been carried out into seven reported cases of infectious diseases and disinfections carried out as necessary.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. A considerable amount of time has been spent on work in connection with this Act, in addition to the work involved in meat inspection.

Slaughter Houses.

During the period under review 100% meat inspection has been carried out and it is pleasing to be able to report that the standard of animals slaughtered continues to improve.

The amount of meat condemned as unfit is remarkably low compared with pre-war figures.

Number of registered slaughter houses ...	6
Number of informal notices to cleanse ...	3
Number of informal notices complied with ...	3
Number of visits to slaughter houses ...	573

Butcher's Shops.

Number of butcher's shops in area	10
Number of informal notices served	10
Number of statutory notices served	Nil
Number of shops which have been brought up to the required standard	4
Number of shops where work is in progress ...	3
Number of shops where work has not commenced	3
Number of visits made	116

Notice served on one butcher has been held in abeyance as the occupier is attempting to sell the goodwill of the business.

One butcher has plans approved for the construction of a new shop.

Premises registered for the preparation of preserved food (excluding fried fish shops).

Number of premises registered	6
Number of informal notices served	6
Number of statutory notices served	Nil
Number of premises which have been brought up to the required standard	2
New premises provided	1
Number of premises where work is in progress ...	2
Number of premises where work has not yet started	1
Number of visits made to premises	45

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of premises registered	2
Number of notices served	2
Number of premises brought up to required standard	1
Number of premises where works are in progress	1
Number of visits made	10

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of premises registered under Section 14	43
Number of premises in use at the end of year ...	29
Number of informal notices served	5
Number of statutory notices served	Nil
Number of premises brought up to the standard of the Food Hygiene Regulations ...	3
Number of notices outstanding	2
Number of visits made	46

Owing to the death of the owner, the premises used for the manufacture of hot mix ice cream were not in use at the end of the year.

Catering Establishments.
(excluding factory canteens).

Number in district	5
Number of informal notices served	3
Number of statutory notices served	Nil
Number of notices complied with	Nil
Number of premises where work is in progress ...	1
Number of premises closed	2
Number of visits made	25

Bakeries.

Number of bakeries in district	5
Number of informal notices served	5
Number of statutory notices served	Nil
Number of bakeries brought up to required standard	2
Number of bakeries where work is in progress ...	2
Number of bakeries closed down	1
Number of visits made	28

Licensed Premises.

Number of licensed premises inspected	8
Number of informal notices served	8
Number of premises brought up to required standard	5
Number of premises where work has not commenced ...	3
Number of visits made	38

Food Condemned.
(other than meat).

Corned beef	5 tins
Tomatoes	3 "
Luncheon meat	1 "
Tongue	1 "
Peaches	2 "
Peas	4 "
Cherries	1 "
Pears	1 "
Jam	1 "
Shrimps	1 "
Steak	2 "

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

During the year licences as follows were issued :

Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk ...	8
Dealers Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk ...	8
Supplementary Licences to use special Designation "Pasteurised"	7
Dealers Licences to use the special Designation "Pasteurised"	7
Dealers Licence to open and cool "Tuberculin Tested" milk ...	1

Routine inspections of distributing vehicles have again continued to be carried out.

During the year 51 samples of milk were taken for biological examination and 51 samples for bacteriological examination. In addition 31 "follow-up" samples were taken.

Animals giving milk infected with brucella abortus were disposed of for slaughter.

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District is in a specified area and no milk, other than designated milk, may be sold.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The bonus scheme for workmen continued during the year. Workmen are paid a bonus provided all the work in the district allocated to them is carried out. A five day week is worked. There are three teams, two consisting of four men, including the driver/loader, and the third team comprising 6 men including two driver/loaders. This latter team carries out cesspool emptying on two afternoons or each week. Pail closets, (approximately 1,200), are emptied at weekly intervals ; bins every seven working days, unless holidays intervene or men are absent for some reason, when the bonus scheme allows for a proportionate increase in the collecting period.

Cesspools are emptied on request and a charge of 30/- per load, or part load, is charged. A Bedford 5 ton 800 gallon capacity cesspool emptier is used. During the year under review 141 cesspools were emptied.

Dust bins have continued to be provided as a charge against the rates, 561 being issued. This number included 166 to new Council houses.

Visits made in connection with refuse collection was 170.

PETROLEUM.

Installation of all new tanks continued to be supervised and pressure tests carried out.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of inspections of factories ... 33

TENTS, VANS, AND SHEDS.

Licences have been issued in respect of 12 caravans. These continue to be spread throughout the district. A total of 17 inspections have been made.

The policy of applicants first being requested to make application under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, has again continued. If this is granted, an application for licencing under the Public Health Act, 1936, is then placed before the Council for their consideration.

NEW DRAINAGE AND CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

The Council's policy of giving grants of up to £10. 0. 0. per closet converted has continued.

The fact that grants are given for closet conversion is unsewered parishes, provided septic tanks are provided, has still not led to the number of conversions hoped for. When one realises that the septic tank alone can cost in the region of £50. 0. 0. plus the cost of drainage, laying on of water, alterations to structure &c., it must be admitted that a grant of £10. 0. 0. is little inducement.

New drainage systems laid to sewer ...	6
Old drains repaired and extended ...	31
New water closets constructed to replace pan closets	67
Additional W.C. accommodation provided	3
New drainage to septic tanks	8
Septic tanks provided	8
Pail closets abolished	1
Re-visits of inspection	198

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Sewer and Sewage Disposal Works.

Inspection of sewers	63
Blocked sewers cleared	12
Inspections while work in hand ...	24
Inspection of sewage works	194

Capital Schemes in Progress or Approved.

	Estimated Cost	Progress at 31.12.56.
Worthington	£24,400	Sewers laid. Works completed and connections made.
Appleby Magna	£44,200	Laying of sewers in progress. Works started. No connections made.
Osgathorpe	£22,300	Laying of sewers in progress.
Snarestone	£12,300	Laying of sewers in progress.
Packington	£23,000	Ministry has approved this scheme in principle.
Measham Sewerage Works extension	£17,800	Scheme approved by Ministry. No starting date fixed.
Atherstone Road, Measham	£11,500	Ministry would not approve this scheme in 1953.
Normanton-le-Heath	£ 9,100	Scheme deferred on grounds of high cost.
Coleorton and part Swannington	Not known	Ministry would not approve this section of the joint scheme with Worthington in 1953.
Acresford	Not known	Ministry would not approve this scheme in 1952 and the Council decided to take no further action at that time.
Ravenstone Sewage Works extension	Not known	Scheme not yet prepared.
Chilcote	Not known	Report to be prepared.

NEW BUILDINGS, ADDITIONS, EXTENSIONS, IMPROVEMENTS &C.,

New houses by local authority	166
New houses by private enterprise	43
New houses drained to sewer	179
New houses drained to septic tanks ...	30
New houses with water from public main ...	209
New houses with water closets	209
Cowshed	1
Shops	2
Telephone Exchange	1
Piggeries	6
Agricultural Buildings	12
Garages	52
Septic tanks (other than new houses) ...	16
Bedrooms	4
Pantries	8
Additional water closets	14
Conversions to water closets from pans ...	14
Hot water systems	32
Bathrooms	30
Kitchens	2
Houses reconstructed	2
Damp proof courses provided	1
New fireplaces	32
Miscellaneous	12
Visits of inspection	838

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

Administration in connection with development under the Act is carried out by the Council in conjunction with the Western Area Sub-Committee of the Leicestershire County Council.

During the year 146 applications were made in respect of permission to develop.

LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE.

Seventeen properties were surveyed in connection with loans for house purchase. The increase in applications for loans is probably due to the fact that it is now becoming very much more difficult to obtain loans from Building Societies.

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells closed for drinking purposes		28
Number of houses inspected	...	25
Samples taken for analysis	...	12
Samples unsatisfactory	...	4
Informal notices served	...	20
Water laid on from public mains		43

Capital Schemes.

	Estimated Cost	Progress at 31.12.56.
Lount Village	£3,740	Completed.
Extension to Willesley reservoir	£9,100	Ministry not prepared to approve at present time.
Standby Borehole at Acresford	£8,500 (incl. pump &c)	Drilling operations in progress.

In addition, a number of extensions to premises, such as farms, sewage works &c., were carried out.

HOUSING.

Construction of new Council Houses.

Work at three large sites continued during the year.

Details are as follows :

Site	Dwellings	Estimated Capital cost	Progress at 31.12.56
Wilkes Avenue, Measham.	102	£171,104	102 houses completed (12 - 2 bedroomed flats 86 - 3 bedroomed houses 4 - 4 bedroomed houses)
Ramscliff Avenue, Donisthorpe.	98	£161,787	98 houses completed. (8 - 2 bedroomed flats 86 - 3 bedroomed houses 4 - 4 bedroomed houses)

Site	Dwelling	Estimated Capital Cost	Progress at 31.12.56
Round House Worthington	90 houses 2 shops	£161,710	Site works in progress.

The houses constructed at Wilkes Avenue, Measham were "Gregory" houses of brick construction. The Ramscliff Avenue, Donisthorpe houses were "No Fines Houses", as will be those at Worthington. The houses at Worthington will comprise :

18 - 2 bedroomed flats
72 - 3 bedroomed houses, and
2 shops.

As at Donisthorpe and Measham, disposal of surface water at Worthington will be by separate sewers to the brookcourse.

At the year end, efforts were being made to find sites for houses in the parishes on the Heather/Swepstone side of the district in order to carry out the Council's new policy of building for slum clearance purposes only.

Improvement Grants.

Work in connection with Improvement Grants has continued. Applicants are met at the property, which it is proposed to improve, before the preparation of detailed plans in order that the proposed work of improvement (and usually repairs) can be discussed.

This saves much time and expense in the long run, as it saves the necessity for revising, and even in some cases the preparation of fresh plans and specifications.

Total applications ...	47
Informal applications	20
Formal applications ...	27
Applications approved ...	26
Applications refused ...	1
Applications withdrawn	-

Total amount paid by way of grants during the year £5,298. 4. 9.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

During the year six applications were made for certificates of disrepair, and in all cases these were granted.

The Council's policy of serving notices on the owner of the property with respect to which a certificate is granted, requesting that the necessary work of repair be carried out, has been continued.

Slum Clearance.

Good progress has continued to be made with the Slum Clearance Programme and further sub-standard properties have been dealt with.

Details are as follows :

Visits of inspection	116

Closing Orders.

Dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders made	12
Number of persons rehoused	16

Demolition Orders.

Dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders made	35
Number of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	3
Number of dwellings rendered fit as a result of undertakings	2
Number of persons rehoused	185

Clearance Areas.

Clearance Areas declared	-
Dwelling houses included in Clearance Areas ...	-
Clearance Areas confirmed by the Ministry ...	1
Number of persons rehoused	113

The negotiations for the purchase of eleven houses in Cross Street Measham were successfully completed and the houses were demolished during the year. The site is now available for development at the Council's discretion.

One large property which had been let in flats was purchased by the Council and at the year end a tender for its demolition had been accepted, all the tenants having been rehoused. When this house is demolished the Council will have available for redevelopment an area of land of approximately 4,233 square yards. The land is, however, still liable to subsidence and it may be some few years before it can safely be developed.

During the year five sub-standard properties were purchased by the Council on the District Valuer's valuation. Plans and specifications were approved by the Ministry after some difficulties, and the work of renovating the properties put in hand. Work will include the provision of bathrooms, hot water systems, new fireplaces, damp proof courses, new floors &c., Ultimately five good houses will be provided at a cost of approximately £900. 0. 0. per house.

It gives me pleasure, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, to express my thanks for your interest, support and encouragement during the year. I also wish to express my appreciation for the co-operation I have continued to receive from Doctor Segerdal, the Clerk of the Council and the Accountant.

I also wish to again pay tribute to the way the members of the department have worked and the willing way in which they have carried out their duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. S. CURTIS.